

STENT POSITIONING SYSTEM AND METHOD

Abstract

5 A stent combined with a positioning apparatus to effectively place the
stent at a precise deployment site within a narrowed vascular region such as an
artery. The stent is maneuvered through the vessel and is guided by a guiding
catheter up the vessel to where the narrowing is located. Upon exiting the
guiding catheter and approaching the deployment site within the coronary artery,
10 a deployment site locator expands to contact the vascular structure and, thereby,
effectively position the stent at the deployment site within the narrowed vessel.
This system apparatus and method is particularly useful for stent placement at an
ostium (origin) of a vessel.